

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 6, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 30, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Completed, Jackal Scrap Yard, Canton, Illinois

The Jackal Scrap Yard is located in Canton, Fulton County, Illinois, and ceased operation in 2001. A site investigation revealed elevated levels of heavy metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the soil. A removal action was approved and work began on April 29, 2002. Initially, 1,131 tons of above-ground scrap and debris was hauled to the landfill. Additionally, 150 gallons of oil, 100 fire extinguishers, 30 industrial equipment batteries, 50 compressed gas cylinders, and over 1,200 tires were transported off-site for recycling. After all of the debris was cleared, 7,143 tons of contaminated soil was excavated from the property and transported to American Disposal Services for disposal. Samples were collected after excavation to determine the extent of any contamination still present on the site. The results showed that all levels of chemical and metal contamination were well below any levels of concern. The site was then backfilled, compacted, and graded with approximately 6,800 tons of sand and topsoil. The removal actions were completed on June 19, 2002, with the planting of grass seed.

Contact: Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)

Removal Initiated, Zephyr Refinery Site, North Muskegon, Michigan

On August 19, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator Betty Lavis initiated the removal and closure of wastewater treatment lagoons at the Zephyr

Refinery site in North Muskegon, Michigan. The Zephyr Refinery site is a 70-acre former oil refinery currently operating as a fertilizer storage and transfer facility. The two lagoons are located in wetlands along the Muskegon River, which drains into Lake Michigan less than three miles from the site.

This removal action is the third conducted by U.S. EPA. In 1997-1998, at the request of the State of Michigan, U.S. EPA removed tanks, drums, product, and oil pits remaining on the property after the bankrupt refinery was leveled during the 1980's. U.S. EPA also successfully negotiated a Prospective Purchaser Agreement with the current owner. Following the removal actions and the sale of the property, the State removed underground pipelines and installed and upgraded the groundwater collection and treatment system. The State also planned to address the lagoons, but, after performing an extent of contamination study, determined it did not have the necessary resources.

U.S. EPA's site assessment in June of 2002 confirmed the presence of high levels of hazardous waste, such as total reactive sulfide (TRS), Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) lead, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in the lagoon sediment. Removal actions include dewatering the lagoons and neutralizing the TRS. The sediment will then be solidified to bind the TCLP lead and other hazardous constituents. The solidified sediment will be removed and disposed of at an off-site landfill.

Contacts: Betty Lavis (312-886-7183)
Charles Brasher (312-886-7196)

Risk Management Program Inspection Conducted, ISK Magnetix Inc. Facility, Valparaiso, Indiana

On August 22, 2002, Silvia Palomo and Bob Mayhugh of the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP) conducted an inspection at the ISK Magnetix Inc. Facility in Valparaiso, Indiana. The purpose of the inspection was to review the Risk Management Program that the facility has in place as required under the Risk Management Program regulations mandated under Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. ISK Magnetix Inc. is a manufacturer of iron oxides for magnetic storage media. One of the raw materials used in the process is anhydrous ammonia. The facility prepared and submitted a Risk Management Plan for the use and storage of anhydrous ammonia.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

Risk Management Program Inspections Conducted, State of Wisconsin

On August 26 and 27, 2002, Silvia Palomo and Bob Mayhugh of the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP) conducted two Risk Management Program site visits in Wisconsin.

The facilities visited were, Packerland Whey Products in Luxemburg, Wisconsin, and P.H. Geltfelter, located in Neenah, Wisconsin. The purpose of the visits were to ensure that the facilities were in compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendment Risk Management Program requirements.

Contact: Bob Mayhugh (312-886-5929)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

BP Toledo Refinery Deployment Exercise, Toledo, Ohio

On August 28, 2002, the BP Toledo Refinery conducted a live full deployment exercise at their ship loading dock in Toledo, Ohio. U.S. EPA was invited to participate in the exercise. Over one hundred personnel representing the following agencies were active in the command center: U.S. EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services, Lucas County Emergency Management Agency, Lucas County Local Emergency Planning Committee, Toledo Mutual Assistance Association, and both the Toledo and Oregon Fire Departments. The scenario was a barge collision and subsequent detachment and fire involving 4,200 barrels of JP5 Jet Fuel into the Maumee River. Other issues involved in the scenario included injury and recovery of three injured BP employees, use of fire fighting foam which entered the Maumee River, and environmentally sensitive areas affected.

A unique aspect of this full deployment exercise was the use of a new spill simulator, which was used to control the actions taken by the responders. All actions from the Unified Command were channeled to a controller, who entered the information into the computer program. This process limited future actions by placing real-time restrictions on the responders. In simplest terms, the computer program did not allow unrealistic efforts to be taken by the responders to control and remediate the release. In addition, the computer program allowed the Unified Command to test response actions (prior to deployment) to assess their effectiveness, taking time and weather into consideration.

Contacts: Joe Fredle (440-250-1740)
Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

Conference, Preparedness for Response Exercise Program, Area Exercise, Baltimore, Maryland.

On August 27-29, 2002, at the invitation of the U.S. Coast Guard, Ann Whelan attended the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program Area Exercise Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, along with selected members of industry, the States, and other

government stakeholders. Feedback was sought on all aspects of exercises, from the design to the evaluation. This will help the U.S. Coast Guard develop a document on Area Exercises and will aid them as they fine tune their support to Area Exercises including support to the U.S. EPA Regions.

Contact: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Mike Cook (OERR)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers